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Australia's unemployment rate remained steady at 5.4 per cent in January 2013

Australia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained steady at 5.4 per cent in January, as announced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

The ABS reported the number of people employed increased by 10,400 to 11,549,100 in January. The increase in employment was driven by increased part-time employment, up 20,200 people to 3,450,700 and was offset by decreased full-time employment, down 9,800 to 8,098,400 people. The increase in total employment was mainly driven by an increase in female part-time employment.

The number of people unemployed increased by 2,000 people to 659,600 in January, the ABS reported.

The ABS monthly seasonally adjusted aggregate hours worked series showed a decrease in January, down 3.9 million hours to 1,619.7 million hours.

The ABS reported a seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate decrease of 0.1 percentage points to 65.0 per cent in January.

More details are contained in the January 2013 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), as well as the upcoming January 2013 issue of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) due for release next week on February 14. These publications are available for free download (after release) from the ABS website - www.abs.gov.au.

Media note:

When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.

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